

Harris / Time

(1)

November 22, 1961

Mr. George Harris  
Time-Life-Fortune  
Bureau Chief  
Shell Building  
100 Bush Street  
San Francisco 4, California

Dear Mr. Harris:

Thank you for your forthright letter of November 21. If I thought that my friends in the smithy read Time either, I might worry more about the attribution of an offensive remark; however, there is so much else wrong with it that I don't think it likely they will hold me responsible in any case. Perhaps the distinction may seem a trivial one - our instrumentation is intended for Mars, not the Moon. If there are traces of life on the Moon at all, it would take a very large scale kind of laboratory operation to detect them; on the other hand, during the history of the earth it is quite certain that fragments of lunar surface material - perhaps even sizable fragments will have been splashed onto the Earth by natural mechanisms.

Perhaps you make up for all this by your timely rectification of my age; better luck next time.